

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al.

- vs -

ARAKI, Sadao, et al.

A F F I D A V I T

I had the honor to represent my King and country in Tokyo, as Belgian Ambassador, from December 1920 to February 1939. I was Dean of the Diplomatic Corps from December 1928 to February 1939, so I was in a position to know well the leaders of Japan during the two decades which preceded the second world war.

When I arrived in 1921 Japan seemed on its way to become a constitutional and parliamentary democracy on the European pattern. A series of unfortunate events changed the course of history. The worst elements in the land, which had no influence in 1921, gradually emerged from their position of insignificance and by degrees succeeded in winning to their silly ideas of dominating Asia and the world, first the army and finally the Japanese people (who will always follow any energetic leaders).

When I left Japan in 1939 an anonymous and collective dictatorship of the army held the country and its supposedly "absolute" monarch in their grip.

From my long personal contact with the Emperor I can declare that he is the most convinced "pacifist" that I have ever met. I feel certain that His Majesty did all He could to foil the plans of the war mongers and that, had He gone in further or sooner than He did in putting His foot down on the military clique and reaffirming His own supreme and legitimate authority, He would have been suppressed and the situation today would be infinitely worse than it is. I think this will become more and more evident as time passes.

With Mr. Hirota, Koki, I have had friendly relations for a great many years even before he became Prime Minister in March 1936 and Minister of Foreign Affairs in 1937-1938. I feel absolutely convinced that Mr. Hirota always used his real influence with the military leaders to restrain them to the best of his ability.

Baron Hiranuma and Mr. Shigemitsu may, in my opinion, be considered pretty much in the same light as Mr. Hirota. They were certainly not among the foolish hotheads who led Japan to disaster. But my acquaintance with them was by no means as intimate as with Mr. Hirota so that I cannot give as definitely formal an opinion about them as about Mr. Hirota.

I knew numbers of Japanese diplomats and statesmen who were too clever not to see the folly of a war against the U.S. and who, moreover, were sincerely and deeply in favor of international cooperation. Such were Count Nakino, Mr. Tsuneo Matsudaira, Admiral Suzuke, Viscount Matsudaira, Baron Shidehara, Mr. Satow, Mr. Kurusu and many more. Others of the same stamp died before the war: (Lt. Ishii, Br. Tjuin, Mr. Adatci, Prince Saionji, etc.)

Written and signed at Brussels 24th July '47

(Signed) Bassompierre

With Mr. Kurusu I have had particularly friendly relations. For several years he was one of the Directors of the Gaimusho (Foreign Office) prior to 1936 when he was appointed Ambassador to Brussels. He arrived there with his family in July 1936 when I was home on furlough and I introduced him and his wife and daughter to all our friends in Belgium.

When I returned to Europe at the end of my mission in May 1937, Mr. Kurusu was still in Brussels but, much to his regret, he was transferred to Berlin in September when General Oshima was recalled for having been unable to warn the Japanese Government of the signature of the Russo German pact in August, of which he had been given no kind of notice before it was signed!!

Mr. Kurusu was at the head of the Berlin Embassy in September 1940, when he was ordered to sign the military alliance with Germany, and was then replaced once more by General Oshima. Before returning to Japan he came to Brussels in Febr. 41, to say goodbye to me and a few other friends. We were then under German occupation.

What Mr. Kurusu told me then I am not at liberty to reveal as he bound me to secrecy. But what I may and do affirm is that I had definite proof then that Mr. Kurusu personally disapproved the military pact he had signed and deeply regretted the trend of his government's policy which seemed to be in the direction of war.

If Mr. Kurusu chose to publish the details he gave me under the seal of secrecy, everyone would be convinced as I am, that when he accepted, in the fall of 1941, the mission to go to Washington to second Admiral Nomura, he did it in perfect good faith, with the sole and sincere wish to strain every effort to maintain peace.

Written and signed at Brussels on July 24th, 1947

(Signed) Bassompierre

CERTIFICATE OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF EXECUTION OF AN INSTRUMENT

KINGDOM OF BELGIUM)
CITY OF BRUSSELS)
CONSULAR SECTION OF)
THE AMERICAN EMBASSY) ss:

I, Russell B. Jordan, Consul of the United States of America at Brussels, Belgium, duly commissioned and qualified, do hereby certify that on this 29th day of July 1947, before me personally appeared BARON ALBERT DE BASSOMPIERRE to me personally known, and known to me to be the individual described in, whose name is subscribed to, and who executed the annexed instrument, and being informed by me of the contents of said instrument he duly acknowledged to me that he executed the same freely and voluntarily for the uses and purposes therein mentioned.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and
official seal the day and year last above written.

(SEAL)

(Signed) Russell B. Jordan
Russell B. Jordan

Consul of the United States of America.

極東軍事裁判所

亞米利加合衆國 其他

對

荒木 貞夫 其他

宣誓供述書

私は一九二〇年十二月から一九三九年二月まで白耳義門大使として、東京に於て白耳義王及び白耳義門を代表する光榮を有しました。私は一九二八年十二月から一九三九年二月まで外交團の團長でありましたので第二次世界大戦前二十年間の日本の指導者達をよく知ることが出来ました。

一九二一年私がやつて来た時には、日本は歐洲の手本に倣つて、憲法會議に基く民主政體になる途上にある上に見えました。併し引續き

起つた不幸な出来事は日本の歴史の方向を変えたのであります。

一九二一年には全然勢力のなかつた日本における量悪分子が漸次微賤より身を起して次第に亜細亜及世界を支配するといふ愚かな考を懷く上になりましたこれは最初は陸軍であり最後には、何時も強力な指導者のいう通りになる一日本国民であります。

一九三九年私が日本を去つた時には陸軍といふ匿名の集団的獨裁主義が日本及び「絶對的」と思われている日本の君主をその手中に握つていました。

陛下と個人的に長い間接知したことから、私は陛下が今まで私が會つた中で最も徹底した「平和主義者」であると言明することが出来ます。陛下は全力を盡して戦争屋の計略を挫かれましたが、若し陛下が實際上よりも早く又は一步深く突込んで軍部に對して毅然たる態度をとり陛下の正當なる至上權を主張されたならば、陛下は抑壓され今日の事態は今よりはずっと悪くなつていたものと私は確信します。

この事は時が偶つにつれて一層はつきりして來ること、思います。廣田弘毅氏とは彼が一九三六年三月總理大臣になり一九三七年から一九三八年迄外務大臣をやる前も私は多年親しく交際していました。私は

廣田氏が軍部の指導者達に實際に信用があるのを利用して出来るだけ彼等を抑え上りとしていた事を絶對に確信するものであります。

平沼男爵と重光氏は、私の考では、廣田氏とは同様に考えられます。彼等は、日本を災難に導いた愚かなせつかち屋の中には確かに入つていません。併し私と彼等との交際は廣田氏との交際ほど親密なものではありませんでしたから廣田氏に関する意見ほどはつきりした正式の意見を述べることとは出来ません。

賢明で、米口と戦争する愚を悟つていたか更に口際間の協調に心から賛成していた日本の多くの外交官や政治家を私は知っていました。そいつら人間達は、牧野伯爵、松本恒雄氏、鈴木大將、松平子爵、榊原男爵、佐藤氏、來栖氏、其他大勢でした。同じ型の人で戦争前になくなつた人に石井子爵、伊集院男爵、安達氏、西園寺公爵等がおりました。

一九四七年七月二十四日

ブラッセルズにて記 署名

パッソンドエール (署名)

來栖氏は特に親しい関係にありました。

彼がブラッセルズ駐劄大使に任命された一九三六年に先立つ當年、彼は外務省の局長の一人でした。彼は私が陽明館中の一九三六年七月、家族同伴でブラッセルズに到着しました。私は彼と夫人と娘とを白耳の我々の友人全部に紹介しました。

私が一九三七年五月私の使命を果して歐洲に歸つて來た時、來栖氏はブラッセルズにまだおりましたが、大島將軍が、獨逸協定調印前何等の通知を受けてなかつたにも拘らず、八月に行われた獨逸協定の調印を日本政府に警告出來なかつたために日本に召喚された時に、來栖氏は残念ながら九月柏林に轉勤になりました。

來栖氏は一九四〇年九月柏林大使館の長でありましたが獨逸との軍事同盟に調印方を命ぜられました、それから一度大島將軍と交替しました。日本に歸る前、私と二、三の他の友人に別れを告げに一九四一年二月、彼はブラッセルズに参りました。その時我々は獨逸の占領下にありました。その時來栖氏が私に語つた事は、私に秘密を守つて呉れとの事でした。それからそれを明かす事にはいきません。併し私が斯言してよい事は、

來栖氏が自分で印刷した軍事協定を個人的には否認した事、並びに日本政府の政策が戦争の方向に向つていふと思われ、これを深く歎いていた事、を表わす言ひを證據を當時私が述べたことでもあります。若し來栖氏が、秘密を守るという約束で私に語つた詳細を自ら發表したら、彼が一九四一年の秋ワシントンに行つて野村大將を助ける使命を受けた時に、彼が確信をもつて平和維持のため全力を盡すことだけを念頭としていたことを何人も私と同様に確信することでありましよう。

一九四七年七月二十四日

ブラッセルズにて記載署名

パツソンビエール（署名）

官類の記名調印確認に関する説明書

白耳義王
ブラッセル市
米大使館領事課

正官に任命され、資格を與えられたる白耳義王ブラッセル駐劄、亞米利加合衆國領事ラッセル・デヨードンは、一九四七年七月二十九日、自分の直接の知り合であり添附官類に記載されたる人でありその名が同官に署名されており、同官に記名調印せる、アルバート・ド・バツソン・ビエール男爵、自身小生のもとに出頭、若官類の内容を小生より聴取したる後同官に記載せる目的のもとに自發的に同官に記名調印せしことを確認せることを茲に證明す

證據として前記年月日の翌日この官類に署名捺印す

ラッセル・デヨードン（署名）

亞米利加合衆國領事